

## POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

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## Pure Bred Fowls Versus Mongrels.

We are heartily in favor of keeping pure bred chickens, and advise every poultry keeper to get some and breed from them so far as possible until the flock consists of all pure bred fowls. Mrs. W. H. Miller, secretary of the Florida Poultry Association, argues strongly for them in the Florida Poultry and Agricultural Journal. We do not like to contradict a lady and especially one who stands so well in the poultry fraternity. But we do not endorse her idea that you should get rid, at once, of all your mongrels at any price. If you have the capital to replace them with pure bred fowls, the advice is good. But there are many in the poultry business who cannot afford to do such a thing. It would be a great calamity if all the mongrels in the state should die suddenly in one night. The price of eggs would advance beyond the reach of common people, until a supply could be imported from other states. By all means keep nothing but pure bred stock if you can get it, but if you are short of capital, buy some good eggs and work into it gradually.

Being asked why pure bred poultry is preferred to mongrels, or common stock, I will try and give the reasons as I see them:

The first and best reason is that pure breeds are the most profitable and there is very little that even the admirers of mongrels can say in praise of recent years that this imaginary are hardly—hardier, they contend, than fancy fowls.

So many useful breeds have, however, been brought before the public or recent years that this imaginary superiority no longer exists.

One of the greatest signs of robustness in poultry is for the chicken to grow and thrive and mature quickly in bleak and cold situations, and the hens to lay freely in winter.

Many breeds fulfil these conditions. There are no better layers all the year around than White Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, White and Brown Leghorns, the Orpingtons, not mentioning numerous others. And the chickens of these breeds can be reared at any time and anywhere. With the common fowls, the eggs are only of value for eating, the chickens of no value only for the table, and probably they are of no size and carry but a little flesh. On the other hand, if a pure variety of good strain is kept, many of the eggs can be disposed of for hatching purposes, at considerable advance over market price. According to quality and the part of the country, the eggs are worth from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per sitting (very few Florida people are educated up to the \$5.00 eggs as yet).

The pure-breeds have been produced by careful and scientific mating and selection, until the desired points have become fixed and are transmitted to their offspring. So that if colored eggs are desired, such breeds as Wyandottes, Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks and Langshangs can be selected with a certainty of obtaining what is wished and also knowing that the chickens will take after their parents.

For culinary purposes, too, the American breeds and others are unsurpassed for quality and size by any mongrel.

Some years ago standard-bred poultry were for show purposes only. Today that is changed. Most of the breeders, big and little, are giving utility a great deal of thought as well as show points. There are 87 standards and large numbers of promiscuous varieties of chickens raised in

this country. The standard varieties may be divided thus: The general purpose breeds of the Asiatic class, the egg breeds of the Mediterranean class, and the ornamental breeds, which include the Polish exhibition games, miscellaneous and bantam classes.

It need hardly be added that all of the birds in their several classes, are bred by American fanciers. Of the foregoing fowls, the Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, and the Leghorns are the most popular, for the main reason that they are the most profitable.

The first two kinds belong to the general purpose breeds, while the Leghorns are essentially an egg producer. There can be no question that a yard of pure bred fowls, uniform in shape and plumage, is more pleasing to look at than flocks varying in size and shape and color; and pure breeds cost no more to feed than mongrels and very little more to buy.

For all purposes, therefore, fowls of some known breed are to be preferred to nondescripts.

The man or woman who wishes to keep some handsome fowls that may perhaps produce a chicken or two fit for show, has a large number of pure breeds to select from; and the farmer or the grower of fowls on a large scale, by keeping two or three distinct breeds can have both white and brown eggs as well as excellent table chickens.

What the poultry world really needs is a larger class of poultry breeders. The utility man need not entirely confine himself to raising table eggs and meat. It is perfectly legitimate for him to sell eggs for hatching and birds for breeders from his utility stock. He who can produce large eggs records or superior market breeders will very often be lacking in high scores in his flocks, but they will have a more worthy record than that which a poultry judge can give. But if one can have all the utility qualities and high scores besides, the flock is more valuable.

In speaking of mongrels, one ought not to have room on the place, even if it is a 1,000-acre farm, for a single specimen. If you have them, get rid of them at any price, and select one good, pure variety and do the best you can by it. If you have pure breeds work with them and improve them in every possible way—you will have something you are proud of and you will never go back to common stock. When one once gets educated to the idea of pure bred stock the mongrels will never satisfy one any more.

Nearly every one likes pretty animals or birds, we like to produce something better than our neighbors. Get a pen of as good specimens as your pocket will allow and get a standard of perfection. Take several good poultry journals and study your breed. Raise as good birds as you can, by feeding them well and giving them good care. When the show season comes around, pick out your best birds and take them to the show. If you do not win, keep on trying—you will get there after awhile.

There is a great pleasure in raising pure bred stock of any kind, and not only a pleasure but a profit as well.

Take my advice, brother and sister poultry raisers. Dispose of your mongrels and get you some pure breeds, and be sure and get good ones.

## The Future of the Poultry Industry in Florida.

What are the prospects for the future of the poultry business in this state? The following are the ideas of one poultryman as expressed in the Florida Poultry Journal:

Ever since the great freeze of 1894 and '95, the residents of Florida have realized that orange culture alone could not be depended upon for a livelihood. While they know that during favorable years good results can be expected from well kept up groves, still frost and cold may at any time ruin a part or the whole of a year's yield or perhaps of several years.

In spite of the great loss and discouragement following the freezing of the orange trees very many people pa-

tiently went to work and in a few years brought their groves again into bearing. These groves receiving care from the time that the roots of the frozen trees sent up new shoots, are today looking as well and yielding as much fruit as in 1893, and the fruit brings a much better price.

But the thoughtful orange growers are looking for some industry that will combine naturally with orange culture, that there may be something to tide them over another freeze should one occur, and so that they might not feel so keenly the loss of their fruit. In the Northern states the raising of poultry in combination with fruit trees, is largely practiced, and it seems that these two industries should go hand in hand.

The same land answers for both, the high fences for poultry protect fruit trees from pilferers.

Shade is essential for fowls, and chickens keep insects away from the trees, and help also in improving the soil. Many Southerners reading of, or visiting, these Northern farms are realizing that the poultry business is the industry they have been looking for.

Florida has never been much of a poultry state—in fact it is only beginning to realize its possibilities in almost every line. But there is no state in the Union better suited for the successful raising of chickens.

On account of our mild climate, but little capital, comparatively is needed to build suitable poultry houses.

A shelter from rain and protection from the cold west and north winds is all that is needed. There is no cold weather to stop the egg yield for several months.

Out door brooders with a covered runway, work most successfully—a good incubator works well in a fairly open room, if it is well shaded, but if the house is well built and plastered, less watching is necessary. The increased interest in poultry this year throughout the state is most marked.

And the people generally are beginning to realize that it is essential to breed only thorough-bred chickens.

As they see the results obtained from introducing Jersey, Holstein or Shorthorn cattle into their herds, to take the place of the "Cracker cow," that could never give over three or four quarts of milk a day—so they see like results from thorough-bred Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, White Wyandottes or other good breeds of fowls.

There is a fine market here for good poultry. Large quantities of iced chickens are shipped into the state every season—if Florida could supply this demand herself this would not be necessary. There is a growing fear of ptomaine poison from these iced birds and in consequence the home product would be much preferred, if it equalled in plumpness, tenderness of fibre and good appearance, the chickens sent from other states.

It is difficult for poultry plants in Northern states to secure fertile eggs in the early winter months. With us eggs are as fertile in January as they are in April and May in New York state. Could not we supply the eggs for broiler plants in this section during the winter months?

We are proud of our state, nature here wears her most beautiful dress. Everywhere we see sparkling lakes, magnificent trees and lovely flowers. We have been thus educated to love beauty.

So we are not likely to be satisfied unless our fowls are beautiful also. A well marked flock of R. I. Reds, pure white Leghorns and Wyandottes, or birds the color of gold, as the golden Wyandottes, or Buff Plymouth Rocks, make a handsome picture, when seen among the bright green orange trees, and those breeding for fine looking as well as useful fowls, will find a good field here. We believe that Florida is now fully awake to the poultry possibilities within herself and is not likely to slumber again. Patience and careful attention to details are essential to success in poultry culture—from past experience in



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If your fowls are troubled with lice or chiggers send \$1.25 and get 100 pounds of tobacco dust and sprinkle it in your coop. The tobacco is guaranteed to be unbleached. Send 2 cent stamp for sample.—E. O. Painter Fertilizer Co., Jacksonville, Fla.

other lines Floridians have learned the necessity of these virtues and so are ready to take up and push ahead this industry, and we believe that before many years this state will be as noted for its fine fowls as it now is for its superior oranges.

## Fine Poultry Farm.

An article in the Tampa Weekly Times tells what one man has been doing in the poultry business, of course he has had the advantage of abundant capital. But it is not possible to do so well in all places with any amount of cash.

The Times has of late months made frequent mention of the expansion of the poultry business in South Florida, and especially in the vicinity of Tampa, and it has encouraged this expansion as a valuable feature in the agricultural growth of the state. It believes that there is no better section for the profitable rearing of poultry. It is convinced that there is good money and easy money in the business, and that it is specially adapted to the physical strength of many of the people who come here for their health. It has the special merit that the person who is actually not to be classed as among the able bodied, and who would in less favored climes be placed on the entirely useless list, can here embark in a pursuit which will place him on a par for money earning purposes with the strongest and most active.

R. C. Stuart, formerly a well known business man of this city, and former proprietor of the curio store on Lafayette street, two years or so ago became the owner of the noted Chapin place down the bay, and is now in the act of converting it into a really model poultry farm. It is most excellently located for such purposes, being high and dry. Most of the land is embraced in what is virtually a shell mound, elevated several feet above the level of the country back of it from the bay-shore, thus insuring perfect drainage without artificial ditching. Grapefruit and other trees cover a good portion of it, and among these are scattered a large number of poultry houses, and enclosures, thirty to forty in number.